

- Eye color/wearing glasses.
- Tattoos/scars.
- Description of clothing.
- Weapon(s)
- Vehicle(s):
Make
Model
Color
License Plate Number
- Direction of travel when last observed.

USING A PHONE TREE

A Phone Tree is a network set up to allow members to pass along information to each other within the community. If one person observes suspicious activity they can utilize the Phone Tree to alert their neighbors and then the neighbors can watch for the activity as well. This system can also allow for individuals to obtain additional information on the suspects. For instance if citizen 1 observes someone spotlighting and can not get a description of the vehicle they can use the Phone Tree and call the next person down the road. Then citizen 2 may be able to obtain the needed information.

WHAT NOT TO DO

Do not approach anyone you suspect is about to commit a crime. Your efforts should be limited to observing, listening and reporting the suspected activity.

TO REPORT WILDLIFE VIOLATIONS

PHONE

1-800-237-5712

Or email: wildcrime@dgif.state.va.us. For all other suspicious activities contact your local Sheriff's Department.



VIRGINIA CHAPTER NATIONAL WILD TURKEY FEDERATION

The Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries shall afford to all persons an equal access to Department programs and facilities without regard to race, color, religion, national origin, disability, sex or age. If you believe that you have been discriminated against in any program, activity or facility, please write to: VA. Dept. of Game and Inland Fisheries, ATTN.: Compliance Officer, 40110 West Broad St. Richmond, VA 23230-1104

10/27/99

For more information or for information on forming a Wildlife Crime Watch contact your local Game Warden. Visit our Web site at:
<http://www.dgif.state.va.us>

YOU CAN HELP SUPPORT THE VIRGINIA SPORTSMAN'S REWARD FUND, INC. BY SENDING YOUR TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATIONS TO: VIRGINIA CRIME LINE, 4010 WEST BROAD STREET, RICHMOND, VA. 23230-1104

WILDLIFE CRIME WATCH

SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITIES



PARTNERSHIP FOR WILDLIFE, THE ENVIRONMENT, PROPERTY AND PEOPLE

COMBATING CRIME

Crimes whether they are against people, personal property, wildlife or the environment has consequences for everyone. The most effective method of combating crime is to stop the crime from occurring. This can be accomplished through citizens working in cooperation with one another and with law enforcement officials. Citizens can band together and through watching for suspicious activities, listening for suspicious activities and then promptly reporting the relevant information criminal efforts can be thwarted.

OBSERVATIONS

It is important for individuals to be aware of the activities within their communities. By becoming familiar with neighbors and their activities it will be easier to spot suspicious activities.

EXAMPLES OF SUSPICIOUS WILDLIFE/ ENVIRONMENTAL RELATED ACTIVITIES

- Shots fired when hunting season is not in. Generally when someone is target practicing or sighting in a weapon there are numerous shots fired from the same location.
- Large caliber weapons fired at night.
- Automobiles stopping, then turning with headlights pointed off the roadway, then going on in original direction of travel.
- Lights shining from automobiles beyond the roadway.
- Individuals being dropped off from automobiles.

- Automobiles parked for long periods of time.
- An automobile making repeated trips or parking and no one gets out.
- Slow moving automobiles.
- Individuals carrying sacks/bags of grain, apples, blocks of salt, etc., for non-agricultural purposes - possible baiting.
- Automobiles parked and evidence of grain, apples, blocks of salt etc., when appears not to be related to agricultural purposes.
- Individuals walking in fields and /or woods at night with lights and appear to be searching for something.
- Individuals attempting to hide firearms or other weapons.
- Individuals carrying or dragging animals at unusual times (out of season/at night).
- Individuals' running from fields or woods and it appears they are making an effort to escape or not to be observed.
- Streams which suddenly appear muddy and there has not been any rain.
- Unusual discoloration of streams.
- Automobiles carrying what appears to be garbage/rubbish and return empty and they are not in the area of a landfill or proper disposal facility.
- Fishermen and hunters placing fish or animals in different locations.
- Fishermen and hunters placing fish or animals in unusual places, i.e., waders.
- Fishermen and hunters giving away fish or animals and continuing to fish or hunt.

This list is an example and by no means is all-inclusive. The point is to be observant and listen for things, which do not appear to be right.

REPORTING SUSPICIOUS PERSONS/ACTIVITIES

The reporting of suspicious activities is a key element in the effort to stopping criminal activities. The important element in reporting suspicious activities is to provide as much information as possible and to report the information as soon as possible. A suggestion would be to keep a note pad handy at home and while driving. If taking notes is difficult then carrying a pocket tape recorder and taping the information may be helpful. After tapping your observations then you can write them down at an appropriate time and place. Following is a listing of what information should be obtained:

- What happened
- Where it occurred.
- When did it happen
- Who was involved
- Number of people involved.
- Sex of those involved.
- Race.
- Age.
- Height.
- Weight.
- Hair color/length.